

**L A W**  
**OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

Adopted on 8 July 2005

**ON PRIMARY VOCATIONAL (HANDICRAFT) AND MIDDLE LEVEL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION**

**CHAPTER 1**

***GENERAL PROVISIONS***

**Article 1. Subject matter of this Law**

This Law shall regulate the principles of state policy of the Republic of Armenia, legal organisational and financial and economic grounds, as well as rights and responsibilities of legal and natural persons in the system of primary vocational (handicraft) (hereinafter referred to as “the handicraft”) and middle level vocational education and instruction.

**Article 2. Legislation on handicraft and middle level vocational education**

The field of handicraft and middle level vocational education shall be regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia, Laws of the Republic of Armenia “On education”, “On state non-commercial organisations”, this Law and other legal acts. Where international treaties of the Republic of Armenia provide for norms other than those envisaged by this Law, the norms of the international treaties shall apply.

**Article 3. Main concepts used in the Law**

The main concepts used in this Law shall be as follows:

“*handicraft education*” shall mean implementation of handicraft education programmes, except for apprenticeships, on the basis of at least basic general education;

“*middle level vocational education*” shall mean implementation of middle level vocational education programmes on the basis of at least basic general education;

*“vocational instruction”* shall mean teaching process aimed at mastering and using knowledge and skills necessary to be engaged in professional activities;

*“supplementary vocational education”* shall mean academic process beyond the framework of basic vocational education programmes, which is aimed at improving professional qualities, ensuring professional re-qualification, increasing and supplementing the qualification of a person;

*“student”* shall mean a person dully enrolled in and studying at educational institutions through basic handicraft or middle level vocational education programmes;

*“participant”* shall mean a person studying — in the prescribed manner — through supplementary handicraft or middle level vocational education programmes and/or a person attending upgrading courses (training, re-qualification);

*“lecturer”* shall mean pedagogical worker of a system of vocational education and/or instruction, who ensures the mastering of theoretical knowledge and contributes to the development of practical skills of the student (participant);

*“master of practical instruction”* shall mean pedagogical worker of a system of handicraft and middle level vocational education and/or vocational instruction, who ensures handicraft skills of a person;

*“specialist”* shall mean qualification level of middle level vocational education, which is granted to persons having passed state final certification in accordance with the middle level vocational education programmes;

*“craftsman”* shall mean qualification level of handicraft education which is granted to persons who have passed state final certification in accordance with the handicraft education programme and/or qualification procedure;

*“vocational school”* shall mean educational institution providing handicraft education and instruction;

*“college”* shall mean educational institution providing middle level vocational education and instruction;

*“term of studies”* shall mean minimum duration of studies determined in accordance with the vocational education criteria concerned;

*“credit (standard)”* shall mean the volume of academic workload and mastering of knowledge;

*“credit (standard) system”* shall mean the system of organising the academic process, measuring learning outcomes through credits, of registration and transfer, which includes teaching, practical and individual classes, consultations, preparation of course papers, other papers, preparation of final testing, assessment, etc;

*“distance learning”* shall mean co-ordinated way of instruction, when the direct and indirect teaching process between a student or participant and a lecturer is conducted mainly through information technologies and communication means;

*“external studies”* shall mean a way of education provided through self-education and current, final testing of knowledge and capacities in the educational institution of handicraft and middle level vocational education;

*“student benefit”* shall mean refund of the tuition fee of a student at the expense of the State Budget, allocations from vocational education institution, other legal and natural persons;

*“quality assessment (certification)”* shall mean assessment of effectiveness of professions, educational programmes, instruction methods, staff and structure of educational institutions of handicraft or middle level vocational education;

*“social partner”* shall mean organisation or union of organisations, including any type of educational institution that supports the system of handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction, carries out co-operation and is interested in the development of the system.

#### **Article 4. Principles of state policy in the field of handicraft and middle level vocational education and state guarantees for the rights of citizens**

The State shall set conditions for smooth operation and development of handicraft and middle level vocational education system.

1. Principles of state policy in the field of handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction shall be as follows:

- (1) provision and protection of the right of citizens to vocational education enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia;
- (2) ensuring the formation of a modern person and citizen, reproduction and development of mental potential of the society, the competitiveness in the labour market and social partnership;
- (3) ensuring the relevance of professional knowledge and skills of the student and participant to the requirements of the economy and labour market;
- (4) uninterrupted, successive and continuous nature of the educational process;
- (5) transparency and collegiality of the management of handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction system;
- (6) competitiveness and publicity;
- (7) legal equality of entities providing handicraft and middle level vocational education;
- (8) autonomy and controllability of educational institutions of handicraft and middle level vocational education;
- (9) access to handicraft and middle level vocational education;
- (10) co-operation with social partners;
- (11) bringing the qualifications of handicraft and middle level vocational education into compliance with the international standards;
- (12) ensuring access to handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction for foreign nationals of Armenian origin (for Diaspora).

2. Taking into account the composition and structure of the labour market of the Republic of Armenia, the State shall guarantee for the citizens of the Republic of Armenia in the state education institutions of handicraft and middle level vocational education the following:

- (1) handicraft and middle level vocational education on a competitive basis at the expense of the State Budget;

(2) handicraft and middle level vocational education and vocational instruction, upon the order and financing of the social partners;

(3) vocational instruction within the framework of state programmes at the expense of allocations from the State Budget.

The State shall support the organisation of educational and practical internships, technological, pre-graduation practices of students, participants of the institutions providing primary vocational handicraft and middle level vocational education.

3. Refund of tuition fee in the form of benefit shall be granted to the students admitted to educational institutions of handicraft and middle level vocational education on the basis of competition results, to those socially insecure, showing high performance based on the results of academic year, as well as to the students of borderline and highland settlements as prescribed by the laws of the Republic of Armenia, in accordance with the quantity of places and procedure approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia .

***(Article 4 supplemented by HO-52-N of 8 February 2011)***

#### **Article 5. Tasks of the state policy in the field of handicraft and middle level vocational education**

1. Tasks of the state policy in the field of handicraft and middle level vocational education in the Republic of Armenia shall be as follows:

(1) ensuring the quality of handicraft and middle level vocational education and introduction of an appropriate system of improvement;

(2) support to preparation and training of specialists for priority and important sectors, as well as for borderline and highland settlements;

(3) ensuring the uninterrupted nature, continuity, transparency and publicity of the educational process;

(4) developing the system of handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction and increasing the competitiveness thereof;

- (5) upbringing students in the spirit of national, moral and universal values.
2. The State shall ensure the development of handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction in the following ways:
- (1) improvement and modernisation of the handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction system;
  - (2) development and implementation of state development programmes for handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction;
  - (3) bringing the handicraft and middle level vocational education programmes into compliance with the requirements of labour market;
  - (4) financing of handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction according to the requirements of the State;
  - (5) state financial support to students and participants of the handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction system, in the prescribed manner (scholarships, student benefits, refund of tuition fee (full or partial (discount)), educational grants, loans);
  - (6) introduction of new methods of testing of knowledge, organisation of instruction, including credit system in the handicraft and middle level vocational education system;
  - (7) introduction of new educational concepts and techniques.

***(Article 5 supplemented by HO-52-N of 8 February 2011)***

## CHAPTER 2

### ***HANDICRAFT AND MIDDLE LEVEL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM***

#### **Article 6. Handicraft and middle level vocational education system**

Handicraft and middle level vocational education system shall include:

- (1) state educational criteria for handicraft and middle level vocational education, basic and additional education programmes and state accreditation standards;

- (2) educational institutions and other relevant organisations providing basic and additional handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction;
- (3) authorised public administration bodies for handicraft and middle level vocational education (hereinafter referred to as “the authorised bodies”);
- (4) social partners of the handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction system.

**Article 7. State educational criteria and educational programmes of handicraft and middle level vocational education**

1. State educational criteria for handicraft and middle level vocational education shall be established in the Republic of Armenia, which shall ensure:

- (1) quality of and assessment grounds for handicraft and middle level vocational education;
- (2) unity of vocational education policy within the Republic of Armenia;
- (3) compatibility and adequacy of the grounds for mutual recognition with foreign states of qualifications and graduation documents of handicraft and middle level vocational education.

2. State educational criteria for handicraft and middle level vocational education shall include:

- (1) general requirements for basic education programmes of handicraft and middle level vocational education;
- (2) requirements concerning the mandatory minimum of the content of educational programmes of handicraft and middle level vocational education, the conditions for the implementation thereof, including forms of theoretical instruction, educational, practical and pre-graduation internships and final certification of graduates, level of preparation of graduates for every profession;
- (3) terms for the organisation of academic process through basic education programmes of handicraft and middle level vocational education and — in case of availability of a credit system — the number of credits;
- (4) minimum and maximum academic workload of learners.

3. The procedure for formation and approval of state educational criteria for handicraft and middle level vocational education shall be established by the Government of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”).

4. Handicraft and middle level vocational education shall be provided through the following educational programmes:

(1) basic handicraft education programme providing qualification of a craftsman;

(2) basic education programme of middle level vocational education providing qualification of a specialist;

(3) supplementary education programmes of handicraft and middle level vocational education providing training, upgrading and re-qualification of specialists.

5. Educational institutions of handicraft and middle level vocational education may also implement pilot vocational education programmes as prescribed by the authorised body.

6. Educational institutions of handicraft and middle level vocational education shall, on the basis of the recommendations of employers, draw up and approve the curricula and syllabuses of the provided professions and specialisations brought in compliance with state educational criteria, which guarantee the learning process of students in different educational stages (entry into and exit from the programme) by ensuring credit accumulation and transfer thereof, as well as granting of qualification degrees.

7. The mobility of students within middle level vocational education system, namely that from middle level vocational education system to higher professional education system and from higher professional education system to middle level vocational education system, shall be ensured by means of credit accumulation and the transfer thereof.

#### **Article 8. Qualification degrees, terms and forms of studies of handicraft and middle level vocational education**

1. Qualification degrees of a “craftsman” for handicraft education and a “specialist” for middle level vocational education shall be established in the Republic of Armenia.



2. Terms of studies for handicraft and middle level vocational education shall be defined according to state educational criteria for professions of handicraft and middle level vocational education, depending on the characteristics of teaching a profession and heretofore received education and number of credits of a student.

3. For the purpose of being granted a qualification degree of a craftsman of handicraft education, the duration of instruction of basic education programme shall range from 6 months to 3 years.

Other grounds and other duration of instruction provided by the handicraft education programme may be defined upon the decision of the Government.

For the purpose of being granted a qualification degree of a specialist of middle level vocational education, the duration of instruction of basic education programme shall range from 2 to 5 years.

4. Study in different levels of the same profession of basic education programme of handicraft and middle level vocational education shall not be considered as receiving second vocational education.

5. Persons who have received a graduation document of relevant degree of handicraft and middle level vocational education shall be entitled to continue the study through educational programme of the next level.

6. Basic education programmes of handicraft and middle level vocational education may be implemented by means of different forms of instruction, namely on-site education, off-site education, distance learning or external studies, individual vocational instruction (apprenticeship). The combination of existing forms of receiving handicraft and middle level vocational education with other forms thereof shall not be prohibited.

The lists of professions and degrees of instruction in the form of distance learning, external studies, individual vocational instruction (apprenticeship) shall be approved by the Government.

## **Article 9. Professions of handicraft and middle level vocational education**

1. The list of professions of handicraft and middle level vocational education shall be approved by the Government as proposed by the authorised public administration body for education and upon the recommendation of the authorised bodies of relevant fields.
2. The list of specialisations of handicraft and middle level vocational education shall be approved by the authorised public administration body for education upon the recommendation of the authorised bodies of relevant fields.
3. A new profession may be included in the list of professions of handicraft and middle level vocational education only in case of availability of a standard for the profession concerned.

## **Article 10. Handicraft and middle level vocational education institutions; their tasks and types**

1. State handicraft and middle level vocational education institution is a state non-commercial organisation.

Non-state handicraft and middle level vocational education institution may have any legal organisational form envisaged by law.

2. The following type of handicraft education institution, namely “vocational school” shall be defined in the handicraft education system.

The following type of educational institution of middle level vocational education, namely “college” shall be defined in the middle level vocational education system.

3. Public authorised bodies for state handicraft and middle level vocational education institutions shall be defined by the Government.

4. The main tasks of the educational institutions of handicraft and middle level vocational shall be as follows:

(1) organisation of education in the spirit of national, moral and universal values, meeting the requirements of mental and spiritual development of a person.

- (2) ensuring the quality of handicraft and middle level vocational education and implementation of the relevant improvement system thereof;
- (3) ensuring the transparency and publicity of organisation of the academic process;
- (4) dissemination of knowledge among population, increasing the educational and cultural level thereof;
- (5) ensuring cooperation with social partners;
- (6) enrooting skills and the sense of responsibility towards the work in students.

#### **Article 11. Admissions to handicraft and middle level vocational educational institutions**

1. Admissions to handicraft and middle level vocational education institutions shall be carried out upon applications received from persons — having at least basic general education — on a competitive basis as prescribed by the legislation. Citizens of the Republic of Armenia holding dual citizenship shall, upon their choice, be admitted to educational institutions of primary vocational (handicraft) and middle level vocational education upon the conditions defined for the citizens of the Republic of Armenia or for the foreigners by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.
2. The organisation implementing handicraft and middle level vocational education programmes shall be entitled to announce admissions in case of availability of a licence.
3. The organisation implementing handicraft and middle level vocational education programmes shall be obliged to introduce its licence, Statute and internal regulations, as well as state accreditation certificates (if any) to the applicant, the information concerning which shall be stated in the admission documents of the applicant.
4. Admission procedure for state handicraft and middle level vocational education institutions — according to the educational programmes — shall be established by the authorised public administration body for education.

5. Admissions to handicraft and middle level vocational educational institutions shall be carried out in compliance with the list of professions approved by the Government, by applying the principles of accessibility, publicity, justice, reliability, transparency and equality.

***(Article 11 supplemented by HO-113-N of 23 June 2010)***

## **Article 12. Organisation of handicraft and middle level vocational education**

1. Handicraft education and instruction shall be provided by the masters who possess a relevant licence and provide individual vocational instruction in vocational schools, colleges, other vocational education institutions, educational centres of organisations and in penitentiary institutions.

2. Middle level vocational education and instruction shall be provided in licensed colleges, higher education institutions (in separate units thereof) providing education with regard to relevant professions, in case of availability of a licence.

3. Handicraft and middle level vocational education shall be organised through curricula and syllabuses drawn up and approved by relevant educational institution on the basis of state educational criteria and offers made by employers.

4. Practices (educational internship, practical internship, educational and practical internship, technological practice, pre-graduation practice, etc.), provided for by state educational criteria and educational programmes of handicraft and middle level vocational education, and implemented in institutions and organisations, shall be provided according to contracts concluded with those institutions and organisations.

5. State final certification of a person, who have received education through educational programmes without state accreditation or have obtained self-education, shall be carried out as prescribed by the authorised public administration body for education.

### **Article 13. Graduation documents of handicraft and middle level vocational education**

1. The person, who has accomplished a study through handicraft and middle level vocational education programmes and has passed final state certification, shall be granted with graduation document of handicraft and middle level vocational education by the vocational education institution concerned or the organisation providing vocational education.

2. Graduation documents of handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction shall be as follows:

(1) diploma and diploma transcripts of handicraft education;

(2) diploma and diploma transcripts of middle level vocational education;

(3) qualification certificate of vocational instruction, including apprenticeship.

3. The person, who has not completed the basic or supplementary educational programme of handicraft or middle level vocational education, shall be granted academic certificate with indication of studied subjects, courses, hours and results thereof.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### ***MANAGEMENT OF HANDICRAFT AND MIDDLE LEVEL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION***

### **Article 14. Management system of handicraft and middle level vocational education**

The handicraft and middle level vocational education system shall be managed by:

(1) the Government;

(2) the authorised public administration body (bodies) of the Republic of Armenia;

(3) the public and territorial administration bodies of the Republic of Armenia under subordination whereof educational institutions of primary (handicraft) or middle level vocational education operate;

(4) the executive body of handicraft and middle level vocational education institution.

## **Article 15. Competences of the Government in the field of handicraft and middle level vocational education**

The Government shall, in the field of handicraft and middle level vocational education:

- (1) approve the strategy of handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction;
- (2) establish, reorganise and liquidate state handicraft and middle level vocational education institutions, as prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia;
- (3) approve model Statutes of state handicraft and middle level vocational education institutions;
- (4) approve the procedure for setting and approving state educational criteria for handicraft and middle level vocational education;
- (5) approve general descriptions and lists of professions of handicraft and middle level vocational education — according to educational programmes, grounds for, forms and duration of instruction — as well as the list of professions which prohibits instruction in the form of off-site education, distance learning, external studies;
- (6) approve the lists of qualifications granted according to professions of vocational education;
- (7) approve the procedure for, standards and duration of state accreditation of handicraft and middle level vocational education institutions and organisations providing handicraft and middle level vocational education, as well as the validity period of the accreditation certificate;
- (8) approve the procedure for licensing the educational institutions of handicraft and middle level vocational education and the organisations providing handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction, the educational programmes taught therein;
- (9) approve the procedure for continuing education in higher education institutions by graduates of educational institutions of middle level vocational education and in educational institutions of middle level vocational education — by students (including those not having completed studies) of higher education institutions;
- (10) approve the procedure for providing funds, including the procedures for refunding the tuition fees, setting scholarships, allocating student benefits and student loans, financing educational funds;

(11) approve the list of professions and procedures for providing handicraft and middle level vocational education in the form of on-site education, off-site education, distance learning, external studies and individual vocational instruction (apprenticeship), as well as for secondment to borderline and highland settlements;

(12) ensure the development of handicraft and middle level vocational education.

(13) other powers as prescribed by the laws of the Republic of Armenia.

***(Article 15 supplemented by HO-22-N of 4 February 2010, HO-52-N of 8 February 2011, amended by HO-153-N of 11 May 2011)***

#### **Article 16. Competences of the authorised public administration body for handicraft and middle level vocational education**

The authorised public administration body for handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction shall:

(1) elaborate the strategy of handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction;

(2) approve state educational criteria and descriptions of qualifications for professions of handicraft and middle level vocational education, according to professions and educational levels;

(3) approve the lists of specialisations of professions of handicraft and middle level vocational education;

(4) within the scope of its competences, elaborate and approve other legal acts regulating the operation of handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction system;

(5) approve the procedure for admission to educational institutions of handicraft and middle level vocational education;

(6) approve the procedure for transferring students (participants) from one vocational education institution to another educational institution;

(7) within the scope of its competences, exercise supervision over fulfilment of the requirements of state educational criteria in educational institutions of handicraft and middle level vocational education, as well as over final certification of graduates and quality of preparation thereof;

(8) approve the procedure for carrying out the process of quality assessment in organisations providing handicraft and middle level vocational education and/or that of ensuring quality by organisations carrying out accreditation;

(9) carry out the licensing of educational programmes of handicraft and middle level vocational education, except for the educational programme of middle level medical vocational education, state accreditation of vocational education institutions;

(10) approve the procedure for implementation of pilot educational programmes for handicraft and middle level vocational education;

(11) approve the procedure for receiving more than one handicraft and middle level vocational education;

(12) assist in establishing management bodies of educational institutions of handicraft or middle level vocational education as prescribed by the Statutes of educational institutions of handicraft or middle level vocational education;

(13) exercise powers as prescribed by the laws and other legal acts of the Republic of Armenia.

***(Article 16 supplemented by HO-22-N of 4 February 2010)***

#### **Article 17. Competences of other management bodies for handicraft and middle level vocational education**

Other management bodies authorised by the Government shall, in the field of handicraft and middle level vocational education:

(1) within the scope of their competence, participate in the implementation of the following processes:

- elaboration of state educational criteria for handicraft and middle level vocational education, establishment of lists of professions and specialisations, setting of qualification requirements for specialists, requirements to the knowledge, capacities and skills of students, organisation of education and instruction of adults;

- state final certification of and granting of qualification degrees to graduates;



- organisation of upgrading and re-qualification of employees of the field concerned;
- (2) ensure the implementation of educational and practical internships, technological, pre-graduation practices and practical works for students and participants;
- (3) examine labour market demand and submit recommendations on specialists and conditions for the preparation thereof to the authorised public administration body for education;
- (4) approve the Statutes of educational institutions of handicraft and middle level vocational education operating under their subordination;
- (5) main employers of specialists with handicraft and middle level vocational education may develop grounds (mechanisms) for co-operation with organisations providing vocational education and instruction and recommend them to relevant authorised body and organisation.

#### **Article 18. Powers and management of educational institutions of handicraft and middle level vocational education**

1. The educational institution of handicraft and middle level vocational education shall, in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Armenia, this Law, other legal acts and its Statute:
  - (1) conduct, according to educational programmes and forms of instruction, admission of students and participants, ensure the organisation and conduct of their academic process, current and state final certification based on state educational criteria;
  - (2) ensure training, upgrading of lecturers, masters of vocational instruction;
  - (3) implement programmes contributing to the development of handicraft and middle level vocational education;
  - (4) assist student self-regulation, participation of students in programmes implemented by the educational institution;
  - (5) implement educational and instruction programmes for adults.
2. The educational institution of handicraft and middle level vocational education shall be managed by the founder, the public authorised body thereof, by the executive body (director) of

the institution and the board of the educational institution (hereinafter referred to as “the Board”).

3. The Board shall be considered to be the collegial management body of the educational institution which shall be established for a period of five years. The Board shall be formed from the pedagogical staff, student representatives, as well as from representatives of the founder and the authorised public administration body for education.

The procedure for the formation of the Board shall be defined by the authorised body. The number of the Board members shall be defined by the Statute of the educational institution concerned but shall not comprise more than 20 persons.

The Board shall have the power to approve the Budget of the educational institution, strategic programmes, tuition fee, to elect a director, as well as other powers prescribed by the Statute of the educational institution.

Academic councils shall be formed upon the decision of the founder or according to the Statute of the educational institution, as well as advisory and supervision bodies may be formed.

The procedure for the appointment (election) and removal of the executive body — the director — of the educational institution of handicraft and middle level vocational education, as well as the rules of procedure thereof shall be defined by the Statute of the educational institution concerned.

4. The employment contract with the director of the state education institution of handicraft and middle level vocational education shall be concluded by the head of the authorised body.

#### **Article 19. Quality assurance of handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction and state supervision over them**

1. The organisation of quality assurance of handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction shall be carried out by the educational institution concerned or by the organisation providing vocational education and instruction.

2. State supervision over handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction shall be aimed at ensuring uniform state policy in the field of handicraft and middle level vocational

education, increasing the quality of preparation of specialists, effective use of state budgetary and other funds allocated for financing of handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction system.

3. State supervision over the quality of handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction shall be exercised by the authorised public administration body for education and the authorised bodies, by organising the licensing and accreditation, as well as quality assurance processes through the organisations carrying out quality assessment and/or accreditation.

4. Objectivity, continuity, transparency, uniformity and publicity of assessment shall be the principles of quality assurance processes in the system of handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction.

**Article 20. Licensing of vocational education activities (educational programmes) and accreditation of educational institutions of handicraft and middle level vocational education**

1. Handicraft and middle level vocational education activities (educational programmes) may be carried out only on the basis of a licence.

2. The authorised public administration body for education shall, in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, license the educational institution of handicraft or middle level vocational education and instruction.

3. The licensing of handicraft and middle level vocational education activities shall be carried out separately for each profession of the educational programme concerned.

4. State accreditation of educational institutions of handicraft and middle level vocational education, the professions and educational programmes provided thereby shall be carried out on the basis of a licence according to educational institutions and the professions provided thereby.

5. Educational programmes for craftsmen and specialists shall be subject to state accreditation in the handicraft and middle level vocational education system of the Republic of Armenia.

**6. (Part 6 repealed by HO-153-N of 11 May 2011)**

7. State accreditation certificate shall certify the conformity of the level of educational programmes implemented by the educational institution of handicraft and middle level vocational education, the content thereof and the quality of education of graduates with the requirements of state educational criteria.

8. Branches of educational institutions shall be accredited under general grounds, on the basis of the application of the vocational education institution having a branch.

9. Education institutions of handicraft and middle level vocational education and the branches thereof established in the Republic of Armenia with the participation of educational institutions of handicraft and middle level vocational education of the Republic of Armenia and/or of other foreign countries, of other organisations, shall be equal to state education institutions of handicraft and middle level vocational education and shall be licensed and accredited by the laws of the Republic of Armenia, this Law, unless otherwise provided for by the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia.

10. The fact of whether the educational institution, individual professions provided thereby are accredited or not shall be indicated in the graduation document (diploma) issued by the educational institution of handicraft and middle level vocational education.

11. The handicraft and middle level vocational education institution may also obtain public accreditation which is considered as recognition of conformity of qualitative standards of activities of vocational education institution with the criteria and requirements introduced by the organisations carrying out public accreditation.

***(Article 20 amended by HO-153-N of 11 May 2011)***

## **CHAPTER 4**

### ***SUBJECTS OF HANDICRAFT AND MIDDLE LEVEL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND INSTRUCTION SYSTEM; RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS THEREOF***

**Article 21. Students and participants of handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction system**

1. The student of handicraft and middle level vocational education institution shall have the right to:

- (1) choose courses that are compulsory (elective) and non-compulsory (optional) for the instruction of the profession or the specialisation concerned provided by educational institutions;
- (2) participate in the formation of the content of education thereof subject to the requirements of state educational criteria for the professions of vocational education;
- (3) participate in the activities of relevant management bodies of the handicraft and middle level vocational education institution;
- (4) in addition to educational courses of the chosen profession, take any other educational course, as prescribed by the educational institution;
- (5) be transferred from paid instruction system to free instruction system;
- (6) enjoy the right to partial or complete refund of annual tuition fee (in the form of student benefits) as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On education” and the Statute of the educational institution;
- (7) use the specified amount of, including named scholarships, benefits and loans, donations and grants, as well as those fixed by legal or natural persons who have sent them for study;
- (8) refund of tuition fee in the form of benefit shall be granted to students, admitted to higher education institutions on the basis of competition results, showing high performance based on the results of academic year, to those socially insecure, as well as to students of borderline and highland settlements as prescribed by the laws of the Republic of Armenia, in accordance with the quantity of places and procedure approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

The Government shall approve the list and quantity of professions of priority and important fields, as well as shall refund the benefit of those students in the prescribed manner.

State scholarship shall be granted to students for excellent and good academic performance, for engaging in social activities, for showing proper conduct, as well as to students of borderline and highland settlements. The procedure for and amount of state scholarship shall be defined by the Government of the Republic of Armenia;

(9) students may enjoy other rights prescribed by laws and by the Statute of the educational institution concerned.

2. Due to health conditions or other exceptional cases the student may be granted an academic leave during which he or she preserves his or her right of a student. The procedure and terms for granting an academic leave shall be defined by the public administration body for education.

3. The right of a person, who has not completed his or her study due to any reasons, may be restored, as prescribed by the public administration body for education.

4. Transfer of a student to a vocational education institution, which has obtained state accreditation, may be carried out from another vocational education institution which has obtained state accreditation.

5. Participants shall enjoy the rights of students in respect of receiving vocational education services.

6. The student or participant shall bear responsibilities as prescribed by the law of the Republic of Armenia "On education", the Statute of the educational institution and the internal rules.

***(Article 21 supplemented by HO-52-N of 8 February 2011)***

## **Article 22. Employees of handicraft and middle level vocational education system**

1. Pedagogical, administrative and economic, production, support and other staff shall be designated in the organisations implementing handicraft and middle level vocational education programmes.

2. The pedagogical staff of the organisations implementing handicraft and middle level vocational education programmes shall include lecturers, masters of vocational instruction.

3. The requirements for degrees and positions of pedagogical workers, the procedures for organising and conducting competitions, training and certification shall be approved by the authorised public administration body for education.

4. The employees of the vocational education system may enjoy other rights as prescribed by the laws and the Statute of the vocational education institution concerned.

## CHAPTER 5

### *Economic Bases of Handicraft and Middle level vocational Education System*

#### **Article 23. Relations pertaining to ownership of handicraft and middle level vocational education and instruction system**

1. The founder (founders) shall, under the right of ownership or use (non-gratuitous or gratuitous) provide the educational institution with buildings, premises, transport, land parcels, equipments, as well as consumer, social, cultural and other property, with a view to ensuring the activities envisaged by the Statute of handicraft and middle level vocational education institutions.

The founder (founders) shall provide the state handicraft or middle level vocational education institutions with property under the right of unlimited and non-gratuitous use.

2. Handicraft or middle level vocational education institutions shall have the right of ownership over funds, property and other objects of ownership, other resources not prohibited by law, having been transferred by natural and legal persons to the handicraft or middle level vocational education institutions in the form of a donation, contribution or will, as well as over the income received from own activities and over the property acquired through this income.

#### **Article 24. Financing of handicraft and middle level vocational education system**

1. The financing of handicraft and middle level vocational education institution shall be carried out by the founder (founders) as prescribed by law.

2. Handicraft and middle level vocational education system shall be financed at the expense of the State Budget and other means not prohibited by law, in accordance with the amounts and allocations defined by the Government.

3. Additional sources of financing shall be as follows:

- (1) Own resources arising from entrepreneurial activities and other types of activities not prohibited by law.
- (2) Investments, grants and loans made by legal and natural persons of the Republic of Armenia and foreign countries.
- (3) Budgets of the communities of the Republic of Armenia.
4. Handicraft and middle level vocational education institutions shall carry out — in the prescribed manner — accounting of their economic and financial activities.
5. The supervision over economic and financial activities in the organisations providing handicraft and middle level vocational education shall be exercised by the authorised bodies within their powers.
6. The authenticity of annual financial reports on the activities of the organisations providing handicraft and middle level vocational education may be subject to auditing, as prescribed by the Government.

## **CHAPTER 6**

### ***TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS***

#### **Article 25. Transitional provisions**

1. Part 3 of Article 18 of this Law shall enter into force from 25 May 2008.
2. Part 1 of Article 20 of this Law shall, in respect of handicraft education programmes, enter into force from 1 January 2006.
3. Part 4 of Article 20 of this Law shall, in respect of handicraft education programmes, enter into force from 1 January 2006.
4. Part 1(5) of Article 21 of this Law shall enter into force from 1 September 2007.
5. Part 4 of Article 21 of this Law shall enter into force from 1 September 2009.



6. Middle level vocational education institutions implementing vocational education programmes shall be renamed as colleges until 1 January 2006.

7. This Law shall enter into force from the thirtieth day following the official promulgation.

*(Article 25 amended by HO-57-N of 30 April 2008)*

**President  
of the Republic of Armenia**

**R. Kocharyan**

**13 August 2005**

**Yerevan**

**HO-164-N**